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"THE TRANSFIGURATION."

A Church Cantata

FOR SOLI, CHORUS & ORCHESTRA.

The Words written and compiled by

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The Music by

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"THE TRANSFIGURATION."

No. 1.—QUARTETT & CHORUS.

Thy painful steps, O blessed Saviour,
We have traced with tear-dimmed eyes ;
We have seen Thee, homeless, wandering,
Weary, way-worn, mocked, despised.

Traveller, all uncomplaining
On the road to Calvary,
What supports Thy patient spirit,
Nearing death's dark agony ?

Ah, Thou see'st, though from us hidden,
Saints and angels round Thee stand—
Saints adoring, guardian angels,
Shining ranks on either hand,
Bathed in light that fills all space
With radiance from Thy Father's face.

Lord, reveal to us Thy splendour,
Clothed in majesty as King ;
Well we know Thee poor and lowly,
Now would hear the angels sing
Thee first, Thee last, Thee all in all,
And see them on their faces fall.

No. 2.—RECIT. (CONTRALTO).

And after six days, Jesus taketh Peter, James,
and John his brother, and bringeth them up into
an high mountain apart. And was transfigured
before them, and His face did shine* as the sun,
and His raiment was white as the light.

ORCHESTRAL INTERLUDE.

"The Transfiguration."

CHORUS.

King majestic ! Vision glorious !
Light o'er light of noon victorious !
Trembling, we adore Thee ;
Nor marvel that in heaven's high places
Princes, Powers, with veiled faces,
Cast their crowns before Thee.

No regal diadem we offer,
But our all to Thee we proffer—
Loving hearts and loyal.
Make them, Lord, though sore their weakness,
One with Thine in love and meekness,
Fit for tribute royal.

No. 3.—RECIT. (CONTRALTO).

And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses
and Elias talking with Him. Then answered
Peter and said unto Jesus :—

RECIT. (BARITONE).

Lord, it is good for us to be here ; if Thou
wilt, let us make three tabernacles ; one for
Thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

RECIT. (CONTRALTO).

For he wist not what to say ; for they were
sore afraid.

AIR (TENOR).

Who would not fear Thee, King of Saints,
When, sudden robed in majesty,
Thy splendour darkens earthly eyes ?
Yet Thou, effulgent Lord, hast said :
Lo, at the door I stand and knock ;
Open, and I will enter in,
And there with you abide !

No. 4.—CHORUS.

Let it be even so.
O Elder Brother, come,
And make our hearts Thy home,
Thy temples here below.

No. 5.—RECIT. (CONTRALTO).

While Peter yet spake, behold a bright cloud overshadowed them ; and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said :

CHORUS (FEMALE VOICES).

This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased ; hear ye Him.

SOLO (SOPRANO), QUARTETT & CHORUS.

Lord Jesus, open Thou our ears,
That all Thy words may enter in.
Than tend'rest melody more sweet
The music of Thy gentle voice,
Breathing soft peace to troubled souls.

Lord, speak, for we, Thy servants, hear,
And, hearing, rise on wings of love
Where flows the eternal Fount of joy.

No. 6.—RECIT. (CONTRALTO).

And when the disciples heard the voice they fell on their face and were sore afraid.

And Jesus came and touched them and said :

SOLO (BARITONE).

Arise, and be not afraid !

RECIT. (CONTRALTO).

And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.

HYMN (CHORUS).

O Jesus, none but Thee,
Since Thou art all to me.
Grant, Lord, that, when oppressed with fear,
My failing eyes may see Thee near,
A beacon Light amid the drear.

With me, O Christ, abide
Whatever may betide.
When earthly things shall pass away,
If Thou, my Saviour, with me stay,
No clouds can dim the glow of day.

No. 7.—RECIT. (CONTRALTO).

And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying :

SOLO (BARITONE).

Tell the vision to no man until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.

RECIT. (CONTRALTO).

And they kept that saying with themselves, questioning one with another what the rising from the dead should mean.

CHORAL RECITATIVE.

God, who commanded light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His Person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.

SOLO (TENOR).

I, John, who also am your brother in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, heard behind me a great voice as of a trumpet. And being turned I saw One like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot and girt about with a golden girdle.

His head and His hairs were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes were as a flame of fire.

And His feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters, and His countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying unto me :

SOLO (BARITONE).

Fear not. I am He that liveth and was dead, and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen, and have the keys of hell and of death.

FINAL CHORUS.

Unto Him which is, and which was and which is to come, the Almighty, the Prince of the kings of the earth—to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.